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**AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$176 MILLION IN  
RECOVERY ACT FUNDING TO IMPROVE RESEARCH CAPACITY AT  
LABORATORIES IN 29 STATES**

**WASHINGTON, June 19, 2009** – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that the USDA is distributing \$176 million in Recovery Act funding to upgrade laboratory buildings and support facilities at research locations across the country. Not only will these projects further important research being conducted at USDA laboratories in 29 states, these funds will help revitalize local economies by creating jobs and supporting local businesses that supply needed construction products and services.

“President Obama is committed to ensuring that USDA stays on the cutting edge of research in food safety, nutrition, producing food and preserving the quality of our soil and water,” Vilsack said. “This funding will ensure that our labs can carry out the critical research that enables the U.S. to have the safest, least expensive food supply in the world.”

The Recovery Act funds will improve the safety and health aspects of the laboratories, enhance the energy efficiency, and reduce the cost of operation and maintenance. These benefits will improve the working environment, resulting in improved productivity, and generate maintenance savings that will be captured and returned to directly support the research program. All of the projects selected are at locations conducting research of the highest priority.

The Western Regional Research Center (WRRRC) in Albany, Calif., which is receiving \$28.4 million, focuses on creating crop plants, food products, and food processing methods that are healthier and safer for consumers and the environment. For example, WRRRC scientists discovered that microbes thought to live only in animals can also exist on plants such as lettuce and spinach, and the researchers are now working on ways to prevent produce contamination. WRRRC will use the Recovery Act funds to make electrical and plumbing systems repairs, fire detection and suppression system renovations, roofing systems replacement, and other repairs that will keep the lab’s research moving forward.

The National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) in Peoria, Ill., which is receiving \$40.1 million, focuses on inventing new uses for agricultural crops and developing new technology to improve environmental quality and food safety. For example, NCAUR has developed a series of new food products that expanded markets for U.S. cereal crops. One of them, Calorie-Trim, is an all-natural, fat replacer. Derived from whole oats and barley, C-Trim contains 20 to 50 percent beta-glucan, a soluble fiber that helps the body regulate blood sugar and lower bad cholesterol, diminishing the risk of heart disease. NCAUR also developed a vegetable oil-based elevator hydraulic fluid for elevators that is now being used in the Statue of Liberty. This new biobased hydraulic fluid has high fire resistance and could replace the conventional mineral oil-based product, which has major flammability, is environmental toxic, and has disposal problems. NCAUR will use the funding announced today to address critical

deferred maintenance of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems to enable the lab to continue to develop new products.

Projects Receiving Funding:

Tucson, Ariz., Carl Hayden Bee Research Center: \$455,000

Albany, Calif., Western Regional Research Center: \$28.4 million

Riverside, Calif., United States Salinity Laboratory, National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus & Dates: \$625,000

Akron, Colo., Central Great Plains Research Station: \$550,000

Ft. Collins, Colo., National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation: \$290,000

Newark, Del., Beneficial Insects Research Laboratory: \$470,000

Washington, D.C., U. S. National Arboretum: \$9 million

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory: \$475,000

Athens, Ga., Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory: \$2.3 million

Ames, Iowa, National Animal Disease Center: \$10.5 million

Peoria, Ill., National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research: \$40.1 million

Aberdeen, Idaho, Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit: \$40,000

Kimberly, Idaho, Northwest Irrigation and Soils Research Laboratory: \$50,000

West Lafayette, Ind., National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory: \$775,000

Manhattan, Kan., Grain Marketing and Production Research Center: \$440,000

Boston, Maine, USDA Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging: \$3 million

Beltsville, Md., National Agricultural Library: \$7.4 million

Beltsville, Md., Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: \$10 million

East Lansing, Mich., ARS Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory: \$430,000

St. Paul, Minn., Cereal Disease Laboratory: \$1.88 million

Stoneville, Miss., Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center: \$26 million

Miss State, Miss., Poultry Research Unit & Crop Science Research Laboratory: \$1.8 million

Miles City, Mont., Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory: \$4 million

Clay Center, Neb., Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center: \$1.3 million

Geneva, N.Y., Plant Genetic Resources Unit and Grape Genetics Research Unit: \$650,000

Ithaca, N.Y., Robert W. Holley Center for Agriculture and Health: \$275,000

Fargo, N.D., Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center: \$1.17 million

El Reno, Okla., Grazinglands Research Laboratory: \$130,000

Corvallis, Ore., Horticultural Crops Research Unit, Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit,  
National Clonal Germplasm Repository Unit: \$355,000

Pendleton, Ore., Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center: \$150,000

Wyndmoor, Pa., Eastern Regional Research Center: \$20.1 million

Florence, S.C., Coastal Plains Soil, Water, and Plant Research Center: \$230,000

College Station, Texas, Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center: \$1.3 million

Logan, Utah, USDA-ARS Forage & Range Research Laboratory: \$55,000

Madison, Wis., U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center and Cereal Crops Laboratory: \$650,000

Kearneysville, W.Va., Appalachian Fruit Research Station: \$650,000

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